

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 16 and 19 as shown below.

Please **ADD** claim 20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A thermal protection system, comprising:
an insulating core comprising carbon foam produced directly from particulate coal
having a thermal conductivity below about 1 W/m °K ~~and a density ranging from~~
~~about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein
the carbon foam is a coal-based cellular foam.

18. (Cancelled) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein the carbon
foam has a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.

19. (Currently Amended) A thermal protection system, comprising:
an insulating core comprising carbon foam produced directly from particulate coal
and having a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.
20. (New) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein the carbon foam has a
density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.